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PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA PRODUCTION OF WHEAT & RYE INCREASE **WHILE OAT & BARLEY PRODUCTION DECLINE**

HARRISBURG — Results of the September Agricultural Survey for small grains indicated **Pennsylvania's** 1999 production of winter wheat and rye to be above the level of a year ago, while production of oats and barley declined according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Yield of oats was estimated at 55 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels per acre from last year. Acreage for harvest was estimated at 145,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 1998. Production of oats was estimated to be 7.98 million bushels, 6 percent less than last year.

Yield of barley was estimated at 71 bushels per acre, up 4 bushels per acre from last year, and equal to the record high yield for Pennsylvania set in 1992. Acreage for harvest was estimated at 70,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 1998. Production was estimated to be 4.97 million bushels, 1 percent less than last year.

Yield of winter wheat was estimated at 54 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels per acre from last year. Acreage for harvest was estimated at 190,000 acres, unchanged from 1998. Production was estimated to be 10.26 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. This is the highest production of winter wheat since 1990.

Yield of rye was estimated at 40 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels per acre from last year. This equals the record high yield for Pennsylvania set in 1997. Acreage for harvest was estimated at 15,000 acres, unchanged from a year ago. Production was estimated to be 600,000 bushels, up 21 percent from last year.

At the **United States** level, oat production for the 1999 crop year is forecast at 147.9 million bushels, 11 percent smaller than the 1998 production. This is the lowest production since record were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 60.0 bushels per acre, is slightly below last year's 60.2 bushels yield. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain in 1999 is 2.47 million acres, 11 percent below 1998. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

Barley production in 1999 is estimated at 284 million bushels, up 1 percent from the last forecast but down 19 percent from last year's estimate. This is the lowest production since 1953. Average yield per acre, at 59.5 bushels, is down 0.5 bushels from 1998. The area harvested is estimated at 4.78 million acres, 19 percent less than a year ago. This is the lowest acreage since 1900.

The 1999 winter wheat crop production was estimated at 1.70 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from the August forecast, but 10 percent below the 1998 level. The U.S. yield increased 0.4 bushels from August to 47.8 bushels per acre; a new record high average, nearly a bushel better than last year's former record. Acreage for grain was estimated at 35.5 million acres, down less than 1 percent from last forecast. This is the smallest harvested area since 1972. Planted area is 43.4 million acres, unchanged from the last forecast.

Rye production for 1999 is estimated at 11.0 million bushels. This is down 10 percent from last year, largely due to an 8 percent drop in acres cut for grain. Harvested area totaled 383,000 acres. The U.S. yield, at 28.7 bushels per acre, is down 0.4 bushels from last season. Of the four largest producing states, North and South Dakota and Oklahoma had large percentage drops in production. Only Georgia was near last year's level.